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Editorial

The EuPA Company Club – Status, report, developments and perspectives



Following the first edition of the EuPA Company Club News Corner at the 7th EuPA Annual Conference in St. Malo [1], EuPA Company Club Members and Aspirant Members accepted EuPA's invitation to again take advantage of the occasion of a speaker slot in this session to highlight some of their most recent developments.

EuPA is very pleased that mass spec companies like ABSciex, Agilent, and Bruker decided to move in, together with the proteomics service provider Protagen. Proteomics material and reagents suppliers Serva and Luminex will loyally participate in the 2014 News Corner, ensuring continuity from last year's edition. Together with Cambridge Isotope Laboratories/Eurisotop, Denator, Promega, and ThermoFisher, already a respectable section of industrial players on today's Proteomics scene have now offered the EuPA Company Club their sympathy.

We would like to recollect that the EuPA Company Club was inaugurated at the 11th HUPO Annual Global Conference in Geneva to help and financially sustain the many proteomics educational activities which EuPA endorses, by collecting a modest annual Company Club membership fee agreed upon by the companies present at the founding meeting.

EuPA wants to emphasize here again that it highly acknowledges the generous support of many companies to EuPA and other international and national proteomics activities, and it is happy to see that on top gradually more companies become aware of the EuPA Company Club Concept.

To further strengthen the collaboration between EuPA as an organization and proteomics companies, and following EuPA's philosophy to grant full transparency to its members, the EuPA Executive committee invites the EuPA Company Club to elect a representative to take a seat in future EuPA Steering Committee Meetings.

It is also EuPA's intention to explicitly involve the EuPA Company Club in the implementation of the newly instated Juan Pablo Albar Memorial Award to honour significant contributions in promoting proteomics data sharing and/or scientific interaction in Europe.

Being offered a priceless opportunity to share the newest developments with the proteomics community at the occasion of a special session organized at the highly attended international EuPA (HUPO/EuPA) meetings, with the

corresponding abstract published in the open access Elsevier journal *EuPA Open Proteomics*, are just some of the many benefits an annual EuPA Company Club Membership brings about (for a complete list, consult www.eupa.org).

As in the previous year, many students and junior researchers enjoyed EuPA grants enabling them to participate in Proteomics Educational actions throughout Europe. These included EuPA courses and workshops on Bioinformatics in Proteomics, Mass Spectrometry in Proteomics, SRM in Proteomics (all 3 in Lund, Sweden), Chromatography for Proteomics (Madrid, Spain), Quantitative Proteomics (Turku, Finland) and Gel-based Proteomics (Sardagna, Italy).

In addition, 30 students received a bursary to attend this Madrid joint HUPO/EuPA Conference.

This way the total amount EuPA spent on educational activity support substantially increased compared to the previous year, i.e. to Eur. 22,000.00.

Last but not least, EuPA is pleased to continue its series of 'annual EuPA Company Club EuPARTner collectibles'. This year a limited edition high quality print (numbered and signed by the artist) of "Motionless by the sea" (Fig. 1) by Belgian



Fig. 1 – “Motionless by the sea” [orig.: “Roerloos aan zee”], drawing by Bert Vonk (Belgium, 1989).

drawing artist Bert Vonk, is offered to all companies committed to the EuPA Company Club, encouraging them to continue the good work. EuPA fully recognizes that through their support the EuPA Company Club members directly help to realize the dream of young proteomics scientists (which one could see symbolized by the figure in the artwork).

REFERENCE

- [1] Kleinhammer C, Verhaert P. The EuPA Company Club – introduction, report and outlook. *EuPA Open Proteomics* 2014;2:61–2.

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